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LETTER DATED 11 FEBRUARY 1994 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to my letter of 6 February 1994 (S/1994/131) in which I informed the Security Council that I had written to the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to seek that Organization's support in preparing urgently for the use of air strikes against artillery or mortar positions in or around Sarajevo which are determined by UNPROFOR to be responsible for attacks against civilian targets in that city.

On the evening of 9 February 1994 I received from the Secretary-General of NATO the text of decisions taken by the North Atlantic Council earlier that day in response to my letter of 6 February. One of these decisions was to authorize the NATO Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces Southern Europe to launch air strikes, at the request of the United Nations, as proposed in my letter. I have sent the full text of the decisions of the North Atlantic Council to the members of the Security Council.

In acknowledging receipt of the decisions, I have expressed to the Secretary-General of NATO my gratitude to him and to the members of the North Atlantic Council for their prompt response to the request contained in my letter of 6 February, stating that it bodes well for continuing cooperation between the United Nations and NATO in implementing the resolutions of the Security Council relating to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I have further told the Secretary-General of NATO that I am instructing my Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia, Mr. Yasushi Akashi, and through him the Force Commander of UNPROFOR, to finalize with the Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces Southern Europe detailed procedures for the initiation and conduct of air strikes and that I am asking my Special Representative to ensure that these procedures, like those already in place for close air support, take adequately into account my responsibilities vis-à-vis the Security Council, as well as my responsibilities for the humanitarian operations and for the security of United Nations military and civilian personnel on the ground in Bosnia and Herzegovina. On this basis, I am delegating the necessary authority to my Special Representative, including, as had been suggested in the North Atlantic Council, authority to approve a request from the Force Commander of UNPROFOR for close air support for the defence of United Nations personnel anywhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Finally, I have told the Secretary-General of NATO that I have instructed my Special Representative and the military authorities of UNPROFOR to make every effort to negotiate urgently arrangements under which:

(a) There will be an effective cease-fire in and around Sarajevo;

(b) The heavy weapons of the Bosnian Serb forces will be withdrawn or regrouped and placed under UNPROFOR control;

(c) The heavy weapons of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be placed under UNPROFOR control.

I have promised to keep the Secretary-General of NATO informed of progress achieved in these negotiations.

I should be grateful if you would convey the above information to the members of the Security Council and assure them that I will keep the Council fully informed of further developments in my efforts to secure implementation of resolutions 824 (1993), 836 (1993) and 844 (1993).

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI